We claim:

1. A method of evaluating the conformation of an animal's hoof and lower leg comprising the steps of:

   (a) receiving digital images of the hoof and/or lower leg;

   (b) computing measurements (angles, ratios, lengths, etc) within those images;

   (c) using these measurements to make comparisons between animals, or the same animal a different points in time;

   (d) using these measurements to compute a "score" which specifies how the particular animal conforms to some ideal;

   (e) combining the scores with the comparison set in order to use the "scores" to rank the animals in percentile fashion.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein

   (a) the user is guided to pick certain key 'markers' within the image, and

   (b) biomechanical parameters are computed from the picked 'markers';

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the resulting measurements are used to compute a "score" which specifies how the particular animal conforms to some ideal.

4.3. The method of claim 1 wherein scale markers, visible in the image, are used to allow accurate scaling of length measurements.

5.4. The method of claim 1 wherein the types of images used are photographs and radiographs.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein scoring is combined with a comparison set in order to use the "scores" to rank horses in a percentile fashion.